Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00188 101509Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 DHA-02 /049 W

----- 005667

R 101434Z FEB 76 FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7705

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: MILITARY AUTHORITIES DETAIN FSL

1. AT ABOUT 0100 FEB. 9 SENIOR FSL EMPLOYEE IBRAHIM SALAH ABU-HARTHIA WAS TAKEN FROM HIS WEST BANK HOME IN BATTIR BY ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES. IDF REFUSED TO GIVE ANY REASONS FOR THEIR ACTION. IN MID-MORNING FEB. 9, IDF PERSONNEL RETURNED TO HIS HOME AND REMOVED A TAPE RECORDER WITH CASSETTE RECORDING AND LETTERS MAILED BY HIS SON WHO IS IN THE U.S.

2. CONGEN HAS TRIED, THROUGH VARIETY OF CHANNELS, FEB. 9, AND 10 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION AS TO WHY ABU-HARTHIA DETAINED, WHERE AT HE IS BEING HELD, AND TO SEEK ACCESS FOR FAMILY AND CONGEN. AT OUR REQUEST, EMBASSY IS RAISING MATTER WITH MFA. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, SECOND-HAND, THAT HE IS BEING HELD FOR "SECURITY REASONS" AND THAT INVESTIGATION NOT COMPLETED.

3.SOME MEMBERS OF PRESS ARE AWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, BUT TO DATE NONE HAVE REPORTED IT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE.

4. ABU-HARTHIA HAS WORKED FOR CONGEN SINCE 1962. PRE-VIOUSLY HE WAS EMPLOYED BY AMEMBASSY AMMAN FROM 1956-62. HE HAS BEEN A DEVOTED AND RELIABLE EMPLOYEE, AND WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD BE INVOVLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MID-DAY FEB 10. A REPRESENTATIVE OF BETHLEHEM MILITARY GOVERNOR

CALLED CONSUL GENERAL'S SERVANT (ALSO FROM BATTIR) AND REQUESTED
NAMES OF ALL BATTIR RESIDENTS WHO WORK FOR CONSULATE GENERAL
OR FOR AMERICAN CONGEN PERSONNEL.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: AFSP, PINS, IS, JO, (ABU-HARTHIA, IBRAHIM SALAH)
To: STATE

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